

AUDIT REFERRAL # 12-03

July 25, 2012

MEMORANDUM

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Through: Alec Palmer
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Patricia Orrock

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Subject: National Right to Life Political Action Committee (A09-19) -
Referral Matter

On July 11, 2012, the Commission approved the Final Audit Report of the Commission on the National Right to Life Political Action Committee (NRL PAC). This report includes the following matter that is referable:

Misstatement of Financial Activity

All work papers and related documentation are available for review in the Audit Division. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Camilla Reminsky or Marty Favin at 694-1200.

Attachment: Finding - Misstatement of Financial Activity

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Misstatement of Financial Activity

Summary

During audit fieldwork, a comparison of NRL PAC's reported figures with bank records revealed a misstatement of receipts and cash-on-hand in 2007 and disbursements and cash-on-hand in 2008. In 2007, NRL PAC overstated beginning cash-on-hand by \$130,932, understated receipts by \$29,624 and overstated ending cash-on-hand by \$104,632. In 2008, NRL PAC overstated disbursements by \$1,437,635 and understated the ending cash-on-hand by \$1,300,378. In response to the Interim Audit Report recommendation, NRL PAC filed amended reports, properly disclosing 2007 and 2008 activity. The NRL PAC treasurer stated that NRL PAC would reconcile its most recently reported cash balance and amend its cash balance on the next disclosure report filed.

In addition, the original reports filed by NRL PAC for 2007 and 2008 revealed an overstatement of disbursements in the amount of \$687,536. NRL PAC did not submit any additional information or written comments in response to the Interim Audit Report.

The Commission approved both parts of a finding that NRL PAC misstated financial activity for 2007 and 2008.

Legal Standard

Contents of Reports. Each report must disclose:

- the amount of cash-on-hand at the beginning and end of the reporting period;
- the total amount of receipts for the reporting period and for the calendar year;
- the total amount of disbursements for the reporting period and for the calendar year; and
- certain transactions that require itemization on Schedule A (Itemized Receipts), Schedule B (Itemized Disbursements) or Schedule E (Itemized Independent Expenditures). 2 U.S.C. §434(b)(1), (2), (3), (4) and (5).

Facts and Analysis

A. Misstatement of Activity on Amended Reports as Compared with Bank Records

1. Facts

During audit fieldwork, the Audit staff reconciled reported activity with bank records for calendar years 2007 and 2008. The following charts outline the discrepancies for the beginning and ending cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each year. Succeeding paragraphs address the reasons for the misstatements.

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2007 Activity			
	Reported	Bank Records	Discrepancy
Beginning Cash Balance @ January 1, 2007	\$612,737	\$481,805	\$130,932 Overstated
Receipts	\$53,518	\$83,142	\$29,624 Understated
Disbursements	\$102,265	\$105,589	\$3,324 Understated
Ending Cash Balance @ December 31, 2007	\$563,990	\$459,358	\$104,632 Overstated

The overstatement of the beginning cash-on-hand by \$130,932 likely resulted from prior-period discrepancies.

The understatement of receipts resulted from the following:

• Bank interest not reported	\$ 14,771
• Vendor refunds for radio ads not reported	4,051
• Unexplained difference	<u>10,802</u>
Understatement of receipts	<u>\$ 29,624</u>

The misstatements described above resulted in a \$104,632 overstatement of the ending cash-on-hand.

2008 Activity			
	Reported	Bank Records	Discrepancy
Beginning Cash Balance @ January 1, 2008	\$563,990	\$459,358	\$104,632 Overstated
Receipts	\$3,626,011	\$3,593,386	\$32,625 Overstated
Disbursements	\$4,718,401	\$3,280,766	\$1,437,635 Overstated
Ending Cash Balance @ December 31, 2008	\$(528,400)	\$771,978	\$1,300,378 Understated

The overstatement of disbursements resulted from the following:

• Unreported disbursements	\$ 184,070
• Disbursements to printing vendor reported twice	(1,526,656)
• Over-reported disbursements	(80,357)
• Unexplained difference	<u>(14,692)</u>
Net overstatement of disbursements	<u>\$(1,437,635)</u>

The duplicate reporting of \$1,526,656 in disbursements to the printing vendor was due to incorrect reporting of independent expenditures. NRL PAC paid for these independent

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expenditures in advance of the dissemination dates. NRL PAC should have reported these advance payments on Schedule B, Line 21b, as operating expenditures. Once NRL PAC distributed the printed materials, it should have subtracted the amounts of these expenditures from Line 21b and reported them as independent expenditures on Schedule E. NRL PAC correctly reported these expenditures on Line 21b when the payments were made, then correctly disclosed the independent expenditures on Schedule E upon dissemination of the materials. However, NRL PAC failed to subtract the amount of the independent expenditures from Line 21b.

The misstatements described above resulted in a \$1,300,378 understatement of the ending cash-on-hand.

2. Interim Audit Report & Audit Division Recommendation

The Audit staff discussed the misstatements for 2007 and 2008 with NRL PAC representatives during the exit conference and provided copies of relevant work papers detailing the misstatements. NRL PAC representatives stated that the committee would file the necessary amended reports. Amended reports filed by NRL PAC after the exit conference corrected some, but not all, of the misstatements.

The Interim Audit Report recommended that NRL PAC:

- amend its reports to correct the remaining misstatements noted above;
- reconcile the cash balance on its most recent report to identify any subsequent discrepancies that could affect the recommended adjustments; and
- adjust cash as necessary on its most recent report, noting that the change is the result of prior-period adjustments.

3. Committee Response to Interim Audit Report

NRL PAC filed amended 2007 and 2008 reports to properly disclose activity as recommended. In a subsequent communication, the current NRL PAC treasurer stated that the committee would reconcile the most recent cash balance and include the revised figure on the next report filed to comply with the recommendation.

4. Draft Final Audit Report

The Draft Final Audit Report noted that, in response to the Interim Audit Report, NRL PAC amended its reports to properly disclose activity as recommended by the Audit staff.

5. Committee Response to the Draft Final Audit Report

NRL PAC requested an Audit Hearing. In addition, NRL PAC noted that the misstatement was largely due to a bookkeeping error.

6. Audit Hearing

During the audit hearing, NRL PAC counsel reiterated that most of the misstatement resulted from a simple mistake. He explained that NRL PAC became aware of this reporting error due to a negative cash-on-hand balance prior to filing its disclosure reports. NRL PAC filed the reports with the incorrect negative cash balance and subsequently discovered the cause of

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the error shortly before commencement of the audit. Corrective amendments were filed in response to the Interim Audit Report.

Commission Conclusion

On May 24, 2012, the Commission considered the Audit Division Recommendation Memorandum in which the Audit staff recommended that the Commission find NRL PAC misstated its activity in 2007 and 2008.

The Commission approved the Audit staff's recommendation.

B. Misstatement of Activity Reported on Original Reports as Compared with Bank Records

1. Facts

In addition to examining the most recent reports filed by NRL PAC prior to the audit, the Audit staff compared the original reports filed with the bank records and discovered a \$687,536 overstatement of disbursements in 2007 and 2008. This misstatement was largely due to the incorrect reporting of independent expenditures as noted above.

2. Interim Audit Report & Audit Division Recommendation

The Audit staff discussed the misstatements for 2007 and 2008 with NRL PAC representatives during the exit conference and provided copies of relevant work papers detailing the misstatements.

The Interim Audit Report recommended that NRL PAC submit any additional information or written comments it considers relevant to the matter.

3. Committee Response to Interim Audit Report

NRL PAC did not submit any additional information or written comments regarding this matter.

4. Draft Final Audit Report

The Draft Final Audit Report noted that NRL PAC did not address this issue in its response to the Interim Audit Report.

5. Committee Response to the Draft Final Audit Report

NRL PAC did not specifically address this issue in its response to the Draft Final Audit Report.

6. Audit Hearing

This issue was not specifically addressed at the Audit Hearing.

Commission Conclusion

On May 24, 2012, the Commission considered the Audit Division Recommendation Memorandum in which the Audit staff recommended that the Commission find NRL PAC misstated its activity in 2007 and 2008.

The Commission approved the Audit staff's recommendation.

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